

MINUTES OF FORENSIC LABORATORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FLAC) MEETING

Wednesday, February 08, 2017, 10:00 A.M.-11:30 A.M.

DHMH-Office of Health Care Quality

Bland Bryant Building

55 Wade Avenue

Catonsville, MD 21228

Members in Attendance:

Renee Webster, DHMH, OHCQ, Assistant Director

Yale Caplan, Ph.D., American Academy of Forensic Sciences

Irvin Litofsky, Director, Baltimore County Police Department Forensic Services Section

Anja Einseln, ASCLD/LAB

Karin Athanas, American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA)

Daniel Katz, Director, Maryland State Police Forensic Sciences Division

Rana DellaRocco, Director, Baltimore Police Department Laboratory

Lorraine Doucette, American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science

Lilia Mijares, Ph.D., University of Maryland School of Medicine

Quorum was established with 8 of 9 FLAC members in attendance.

Members Unable to Attend:

Robert Myers, PhD, DHMH Director of Laboratories Administration, Ex officio

DHMH Staff:

Lori Dodson, OHCQ, Coordinator of Forensic Laboratories Program

Paul Celli, OHCQ, Public Health Administrator for Clinical and Forensic Laboratories

Non-members in Attendance:

Cassandra Burke, QA Officer Baltimore County Police Forensic Services Section

Teresa Long, Laboratory Director, Howard County Police Department Forensic Services Section

William Vosburgh, DDS, Director, Prince George's County Police Dept. Forensic Sciences Section

Gabrielle Toy, Evidence Coordinator, Anne Arundel County Police Department

Craig Robinson, Manager, Identification and Crime Scene Unit Anne Arundel County Police Dept.

Francis Chiafari, Director, Montgomery County Police Dept. Crime Laboratory

Theresa DeAngelo, QA Officer, Maryland State Police Forensic Sciences Division

Jennifer Hanburger, Anne Arundel County Crime Laboratory

Angela Bruno, OHCQ Intern, University of Maryland-Baltimore

Minutes Organized by Agenda Items

I. Welcome and General Announcements

Renee Webster, OHCQ Assistant Director, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and welcomed the committee members and others in attendance.

Ms. Webster introduced Angela Bruno, an intern at OHCQ from the University of Maryland-Baltimore.

II. ASCLD/LAB and ANAB Merger Updates

Anja Einseln updated FLAC on the current status of the ASCLD/LAB and ANAB merger. The draft accreditation requirements were released for public comment in November 2016 and comments have been reviewed by an internal committee. A second draft of requirements was presented within the organization and additional areas requiring clarification were identified. Ms. Einseln could not provide FLAC with a specific launch date at this time. She did state that an implementation date will occur a few months after the official launch date and specific timelines will be customized depending on the customer. At this time, all current accreditation certificates will continue “as is”, ANAB Legacy and ASCLD/LAB-International will be sun-setting at some point in the future.

III. Letter of Exception Criteria

Angela Bruno, OHCQ Intern, presented FLAC with her research on Letter of Exception criteria. Ms. Bruno informed the committee of similar efforts in other states regarding the qualifications necessary to obtain a Letter of Exception. She will continue her research focusing on the specific challenges that the county and municipal labs in Maryland are facing with the current regulations dealing with Letter of Exception. Ms. Bruno intends to form a workgroup in the near future to discuss competency and experience requirements for Letter of Exception applicants.

IV. 2017 Legislative Session

Lori Dodson updated FLAC on bills introduced in the House and Senate for the 2017 Legislative session that may impact the forensic community. Additional bills (HB429, HB647, HB1141, HB260, and SB734) were identified by committee members. For more information on the 2017 Maryland Legislative Session and to track bills of interest please visit this site:

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frm1st.aspx?tab=home>

V. Other Items

Anja Einseln updated FLAC on the two alliances (NAME and ABFT) ANAB has recently signed.

William Vosburgh asked for clarification regarding the Attorney General's recommendation to analyze all rape kits. Dan Katz clarified stating the exception would be unfounded kits.

VI. Date and Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Ms. Webster proposed the next meeting be held in September 2017. Agenda items for discussion will include (but not be limited to) Letter of Exception Criteria, ASCLD/LAB and ANAB merger, and 2017 Forensic Laboratory Internal Audit and Proficiency Test review scheduling. Dr. Vosburgh motioned to adjourn the meeting and Karin Athanas seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.